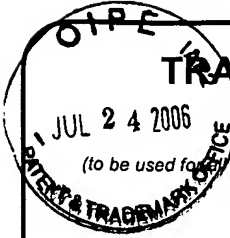




Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

 <b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> (to be used for correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/646,542
	Filing Date	08/21/2003
	First Named Inventor	Koichi Niihara, et al.
	Art Unit	1754
	Examiner Name	Cam N. Nguyen
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	4041K-000148

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Technology Center (TC) <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): <b>Return Receipt Postcard</b>
Remarks: The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name	Michael J. Schmidt
		Reg. No.	34,007
Signature			
Date	July 24, 2006		

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.			
Typed or printed name	Michael J. Schmidt	Express Mail Label No.	EV 855 009 536 US (7/24/2006)
Signature		Date	July 24, 2006

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

EV 855 009 536 US



1FW  
**PATENT**

Application No.: 10/646,542  
Filing Date: 08/21/2003  
Applicant: Koichi Niihara, et al.  
Group Art Unit: 1754  
Examiner: Cam N. Nguyen  
Title: CATALYST ASSEMBLY  
Confirmation: 9723  
Attorney Docket: 4041K-000148

---

Mailstop: Amendment  
Director of The United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 22, 2006, Paper No./Mail Date 20060620, please amend and reconsider the above referenced patent application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.